



Send letters by first-class mail to Managing Editor, *Texas Bar Journal*, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487; by overnight mail to Managing Editor, *Texas Bar Journal*, 1414 Colorado, Suite 312, Austin, TX 78701-1627; by fax to (512) 427-4107; or by email to [tbj@texasbar.com](mailto:tbj@texasbar.com).

## History Lessons

When I was a young lawyer in the Clark, Thomas & Winters firm in the '60s, I tried several cases with Donald Scott Thomas in the Waco courts. We would leave Austin at 8 a.m. and arrive at the courthouse in Waco at 9 a.m. The trip was made even shorter by Donald, who chose this opportunity to tell me about his role in the 1948 U.S. Senate election between LBJ and Coke Stevenson (March, p. 216).

He was the lawyer chosen by Lyndon Johnson and our boss Edward Clark to travel to Jim Wells and Duval counties to investigate the voting irregularities that were *alleged* to have occurred. ... Donald told me that he followed after (Texas Ranger Frank) Hamer and the boys from the Stevenson camp from precinct to precinct, and that he wrote out by hand the petition that was featured in the March issue and the affidavits from the voting officials that explained that they had acted according to law. Judge Roy Archer later became the Chief Justice of the Third Court of Appeals.

We traveled to Waco a number of times, and the story was so interesting, that I hardly noticed we were going over 100 miles per hour to get to the court on time.

**Conrad P. Werkenthin**  
*Austin*

My husband, James P. Simpson, was a member of the Texas Bar for 60 years and, as a special assistant attorney general, was the driving force in closing down gambling in Galveston in 1957. I read with interest the recent article on the Balinese Room in your "Preserving Texas Legal

History" section (March, p. 218). This article leaves readers with the impression that gambling establishments closed down for lack of business after the Texas Rangers frequented the Balinese Room and inhibited gaming activity.

As a witness to this part of Texas' legal history, I can testify this was not the case. Jim Simpson, a former FBI agent, ran for Galveston County District Attorney in 1954 on a platform of closing down the illegal gambling operations in Galveston. He lost by eight votes, but was appointed by Texas Attorney General Will Wilson as a special assistant attorney general charged with closing the gambling and prostitution rackets in Galveston County. Through a great amount of work and personal risk, my husband and two undercover investigators worked tirelessly to accomplish this goal. I can assure you the rackets were still thriving in 1957.

As a former FBI stenographer, I typed the civil injunctions that my husband filed, which enjoined scores of illegal gambling establishments and houses of prostitution from operating. The civil injunction, which at the time was an innovative legal maneuver in these cases, was necessary because law enforcement agencies had been unable or unwilling to close the illegal activity for many years.

On the first day of the crackdown, June 10, 1957, 47 civil injunctions were obtained. Many more would follow that summer. The records documenting these closures are available at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston and at the courthouse. Author Gary Cartwright accurately documented these activities and the gambling era in his book, *Galveston: A History of the Island*.

**Constance Griffith Simpson**  
*Austin*

## A Global Leader

Congratulations to C.E. Rhodes on taking office as Texas Young Lawyers Association president (June, p. 474). He is correct that Texas is and has been a global leader on many fronts. This was demonstrated to me when I was general counsel

of a Saudi-American joint venture company headquartered in Houston during the 1990s. While there were violent demonstrations against a World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, Wash. (my home state), the diverse people of Houston were making peace at a jazz festival on Buffalo Bayou. Later, when I worked for a Fortune 100 company in Dallas, the local Arab Americans had a cultural event at the Cotton Bowl (post 9-11-2001). So, I will end with this well-known quotation, "Travel is fatal to prejudice ..."

**Clydia Cuykendall**  
*Olympia, Wash.*

## Larger Print, Please

I thoroughly enjoyed the essays on the preserved Texas court records. But, why was it necessary to print each of these articles in small font and on faint type face? For several years, I've been writing *Texas Monthly*, among other publications, begging them to discontinue the small font and faint print. I am sure that this complaint is a result of my overly senescent eyes, or maybe it is just because I am 90 years old.

Sometimes I feel sure that this is just a ploy to get more words on a page, but perhaps a little editing may be in order. The authors of each of these pieces must really be upset because you printed their names in even smaller font and, in some cases, in a print color that was even more difficult to read.

**John Jay Douglass**  
*Houston*

## The Modern Jury

Thank you for your excellent series of articles on the modern jury (April, p. 272). I found them very informative and helpful in developing strategies for communicating effectively with modern jurors and also in anticipating trends to communicate with juries in the future. I hope we see more practical articles like this to come.

**Andy Dunham**  
*Houston*